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Figure 1A,B. Necrotic lesions on arecanut stem. A. External, B. Internal.

A NEW DISEASE ON ARECANUT STEM CAUSED BY *CLADOSPORIUM SPONGIOSUM*

S. C. RAO

Central Plantation Crops Research Institute,
Research Centre, Sipighat 744 103, India.

DURING a routine survey, a new disease was observed in the arecanut palms at Buttler Bay in Little Andaman, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. Necrotic spots were noticed on the stem as numerous irregular patches. These spots were of different sizes, varying from 2 to 6 cm in length and 1 to 3 cm in width. The number of spots per palm varied from 6 to 50. These spots were found mainly on young palms, 4–6 years of age at 2–3 m height.

Initially the spots were small and light brown with irregular dark zonations. In advanced stages, the spots became dark olivaceous brown with the edge of the infected area slightly raised and the brown central portion sunken (figure 1A). The lesion was bordered by a light yellow zone of variable width. The infected bark portion of the stem, when scraped, showed brown discoloration of the internal tissues up to 5–25 mm deep (figure 1B).

The fungus isolated from the lesions was identified as *Cladosporium spongiosum* Berk and M. A. Curtis by CMI, London (MI No. 317359A).

This fungus was earlier reported on the inflorescences of grasses, especially the species of *Cenchrus*

and *Setaria* in the tropics¹. The present report is the first record of the fungus on arecanut palm.

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IN SITU GERMINATION OF AKINETES OF *PITHOPHORA KEWENSIS* WITTR. UNDER CULTURE CONDITIONS

S. B. AGRAWAL and B. R. CHAUDHARY
Centre of Advanced Study in Botany, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi 221 005, India.

PITHOPHORA is a filamentous green alga of the order Cladophorales (Chlorophyceae). Long, cylindrical vegetative cells and the shorter, wider, dark green akinetes with densely-packed reserve food